

DOCUMENTS

*Relating to the "bill to increase the present military establishment of the United States."*

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JUNE 12, 1836.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

May 11, 1836.

SIR: At the request of Colonel Bomford, I transmit, for the consideration of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, a letter from him, on the subject of some legislative provision for the ordnance corps.

Very respectfully

Your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

HON. THOS. H. BENTON,

*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, Senate.*

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ORDNANCE OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, January 26, 1836.

SIR: The duties confided to this department require that a greater number of officers should be afforded for their performance. The usual detail has been necessarily broken up by calls for officers in Florida, and the good of the service appears to demand a permanent increase of the ordnance corps by the addition of twenty lieutenants.

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a sketch of a bill embracing such provisions as are deemed necessary to secure the services of a sufficient number of officers, and to place the department on a footing similar to that which it held prior to the reduction in 1821.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. BOMFORD,

*Col. of Ordnance.*

HON. LEWIS CASS,

*Secretary of War.*

[Gales and Seaton, print.]

*Reasons for the proposed act for the better regulation of the Ordnance department.*

Section 1. The importance and extent of the duties confided to the Ordnance department demand that all proper aid should be afforded for their prompt and efficient discharge.

Although the law provides for the selection of lieutenants from the regiments of artillery, to assist in the performance of ordnance duty, the requisite number can seldom be spared from their companies, and at this time, in particular, the detail is broken down by demands for the service in Florida. The officer commanding one of the principal arsenals of construction is now without a single assistant; another arsenal of construction is in charge of an artillery officer. Two extensive arsenals now erecting are supervised, one by an artillery officer, the other by a military storekeeper. Two other arsenals are in charge of storekeepers; one important arsenal and another of less consequence in the charge of ordnance sergeants. The whole force of the department is devoted to providing the *materiel* called for at the present crisis for arming the forts, and the frequent change of officers cannot but impair its energies, and impede its operations. Previous to the reduction in 1821, the corps numbered forty-four officers. The proposed increase will make it consist of thirty-four, which is the least number that can be considered sufficient to perform the duties, extended as they have become since that period.

*Pay, &c.*—By the law of the 14th May, 1812, ordnance officers were allowed the rank and pay of infantry officers, with additional rations, and to the captains, forage. The law of 8th February, 1815, gave to all ordnance officers the pay of dragoons, with the exception of forage, to those below the rank of field officers. This pay was continued till the reduction in 1821. The public duties of an officer in command of an arsenal require him to travel in a limited circuit, to procure necessary supplies, and the existing regulations do not permit a charge for transportation when the distance travelled is less than twenty miles. The command of an arsenal is equal to the command of a company, in all matters relating to responsibility. The captain of a company receives and issues the clothing and arms for his company, and makes the quarterly returns. The captain at an arsenal performs the same duty, and is further responsible for large amounts of public property in his charge, and makes the various returns, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually. He does not command a company in the technical sense of the word, but he commands men, and is responsible for their arms and clothing.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, May 26, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit a communication from the acting Quartermaster General, in relation to an increase of the officers of the department under his charge, and to ask for it the favorable consideration of the Committee on Military Affairs.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. THOS. H. BENTON,

*Ch'm Com. Military Affairs, Senate.*

## QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, May 24, 1836.*

SIR: The public interest imperiously demands an increase in the number of officers of this department, as, with the very few officers whom we now have for the discharge of its multifarious, complicated, and extremely laborious duties, we have to avail ourselves, in many instances, of almost any officer of the line that can be obtained, whose inexperience and want of knowledge in the affairs of the department must of necessity involve the department in much embarrassment; and losses will consequently be the result, not only in a pecuniary sense, but the well-combined arrangements of a general commanding in the field may sometimes prove abortive and of no avail, in consequence of some failure in the officers acting in the department to perform the duties implicitly relied on by him. Acting in the character of Quartermaster General, as I now am, I conceive it to be due to the Quartermaster General, to the Secretary of War, to the President, and to the country, to make this representation.

There is another consideration which is of great importance to the public interests. There is no officer of the department who, by virtue of his appointment in it, is of a higher grade than major, save the Quartermaster General, and this circumstance is of much practical injury, from the fact that, when serving with troops other than of the regular army, the experienced officer in his department, who is well acquainted with the rules and forms of the service, with military matters, best routes of transportation, and communication, and the facilities for the movement of troops, &c., is subject to be controlled by one who has very little experience, if any, and whose habits of life have in the main been such as to render him unsuited to the duties required of an officer of this department. I need not dwell on the injury which would result from such a state of things. Besides, a major in the Quartermaster's department being, as he is, separated from the line, has very little to hope for on the score of promotion, for the gap, if I may use the term, between him and the next grade above, viz. that of a brigadier general, is so great, that his chance of advancement is precarious in the extreme, if not wholly hopeless. If the two intermediate grades were authorized, it would add greatly to the efficiency of the department, and would be no more than justice to its officers. We all know that men look forward to advancement in whatever situation they may be placed: cut this expectation off, and there is no longer an incentive to exertion, other than the passive efforts of doing just sufficient to maintain a certain position, or to avoid being thrown back.

The increase which suggests itself to me as necessary to the proper and efficient performance of the duties of the department, under present circumstances, is fourteen officers, (making, with those already in it, thirty-nine, including the Quartermaster General,) viz:

Two assistant quartermaster generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of colonel of cavalry.

Two deputy quartermaster generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant colonel of cavalry.

Ten assistant quartermasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of

captain of cavalry; those already in service to be placed on the same footing.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that an organization, in some such form as the following, would be of great service to the public :

One quartermaster general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments as authorized by existing laws.

Two assistant quartermaster generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of colonel of cavalry.

Two deputy quartermaster generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant colonel of cavalry.

Four quartermasters, (the number provided for by existing laws,) with the rank, pay, and emoluments of major of cavalry.

Thirty assistant quartermasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of captain of cavalry. All vacancies of assistant quartermasters to be filled from officers of the line who shall have served at least two years with their companies, or in the line with troops; and officers thus taken from the line for such appointment, to be separated entirely from the line; and promotion in the department to take place as in regiments and corps.

Even with this organization, cases would arise when, from urgent necessity, officers of the line might be required to perform duties in the department; and if provided for by law, would conduce to the public good.

When the present condition of the country, the great and indispensable demands for the services of officers in this department, (the most important one of all others when troops are in the field and engaged in active operations,) the fact that many volunteers (perhaps as many as ten thousand) may be received into service by the President under a law just passed, the proper and economical disbursement of the public funds, the security and preservation of public property, the vigorous and successful prosecution of military enterprises, defence of the country, and protection of its citizens, so far as depends on a department of such vast importance, are taken into view, I cannot but believe that the increase and organization suggested, are called for by every consideration connected with the good of the country. The Quartermaster General, before he left here, was satisfied of the indispensable necessity of an increase in the department, and had he not left for the South, he would have taken some action on the subject, and I doubt not he would have suggested that the two grades between his own and the next in the department be provided for.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THO. F. HUNT,

Major, and acting Quartermaster General.

To the Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War, Washington.

## A.

*Statement of the present and proposed organization of the Dragoons, two regiments of ten companies each, excluding commissioned officers.*

<i>Present organization of a company, viz :</i>	<i>Proposed organization of a company, viz :</i>
<div>4 sergeants,</div> <div>4 corporals,</div> <div>2 buglers,</div> <div>1 farrier and blacksmith,</div> <div>60 privates,</div> <hr/> <div>71 non-commissioned officers, &amp;c.</div> <div>10 companies,</div> <hr/> <div>710 total of companies.</div> <hr/>	<div>1 sergeant major,</div> <div>1 quartermaster sergeant,</div> <div>3 sergeants,</div> <div>4 corporals,</div> <div>2 buglers,</div> <div>1 saddler,</div> <div>1 farrier and blacksmith,</div> <div>60 privates,</div> <hr/> <div>73 non-commissioned officers, &amp;c.</div> <div>10 companies,</div> <hr/> <div>730 total of companies.</div> <hr/>
<i>Regimental non-commissioned staff, viz :</i>	<i>Regimental non-commissioned staff, viz :</i>
<div>1 sergeant major,</div> <div>1 quartermaster sergeant, }</div> <div>1 principal musician,</div> <div>2 chief buglers,</div> <hr/> <div>5 regimental non-commissioned staff,</div> <hr/> <div>715 total each regiment,</div> <div>2 regiments,</div> <hr/> <div>1,430 total, dragoons.</div> <hr/>	<div>2 sub-adjutants,*</div> <div>1 principal musician,</div> <div>2 chief buglers,</div> <hr/> <div>5 regimental non-commissioned staff,</div> <hr/> <div>735 total, each regiment,</div> <div>2 regiments,</div> <hr/> <div>1,470 total, dragoons.</div> <hr/>

\* These, though not *non-commissioned* regimental staff, are placed under that head, because two of that class would be superseded by them.



## B.

*Statement of the present and proposed organization of the Artillery, four regiments of nine companies each, excluding commissioned officers.*

<i>Present organization of a company, viz :</i>	<i>Proposed organization of a company, viz :</i>
4 sergeants, 4 corporals, 3 artificers, 2 musicians, 42 privates,	1 sergeant major, 1 quartermaster sergeant, 3 sergeants, 6 corporals, 3 artificers, 2 musicians, 69 privates,
55 non-commissioned officers, &c. 9 companies,	85 non-commissioned officers, &c. 9 companies,
495 total of companies.	765 total of companies.
<i>Regimental non-commissioned staff, viz :</i>	<i>Regimental non-commissioned staff, viz :</i>
1 sergent major, } 1 quartermaster sergeant, }	2 sub-adjutants,* 2 principal musicians,
2 regimental non-commissioned staff,	4 regimental non-commissioned staff,
497 total, each regiment. 4 regiments,	769 total, each regiment, 4 regiments,
1,988 total artillery.	3,076 total artillery.

\* These, though not *non commissioned* regimental staff, are placed under that head, because two of that class would be superseded by them.

*Statement of the present and proposed organization of the Infantry, seven regiments of ten companies each, excluding commissioned officers.*

\* These, though not *non-commissioned* regimental staff, are placed under that head, because *two* of that class would be superseded by them.

## D.

## RECAPITULATION.

	Present organization.	Proposed organization.	Increase.
Dragoons, -	- 1,430	1,470	40
Artillery, -	- 1,988	3,076	1,088
Infantry, -	- 3,598	5,978	2,380
Total	7,016	10,524	3,508